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Legacy of Shaping Dreams

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A Legacy of Shaping Dreams



Bella Itkin-Konrath (MFA '43),

or “Dr. Bella” as she was known by generations of acting students at The Theatre School, taught at the school for 47 years, beginning when it was the Goodman School of Drama. Itkin’s “inner approach” to acting instruction influenced such distinguished DePaul alumni as Kevin Anderson, Melinda Dillon, Ann Dowd, Linda Hunt, Harvey Korman, Joe Mantegna, Kevin O’Connor, Elizabeth Perkins, and the late Geraldine Page.

Itkin contributed for years to The Theatre School’s scholarship fund, and in 1994, university benefactors Sondra Healy (THE ’64) and her husband Denis recognized her teaching and philanthropy

when they established the Itkin/Healy Endowed Scholarship in Itkin’s honor, evoking a flood of support from grateful alumni around the world. “This scholarship gave me more than financial help,” wrote Chicago actress and alumna Bridget Schreiber in a letter to donors in 2012. “You are helping me fulfill a dream that has been with me since the first grade. Believe me when I say that I will be forever grateful for your generosity.”

Upon her death in 2011, Itkin’s bequest to The Theatre School helped to fund the new Theatre School building. Because of her generous planned gift, the “Dr. Bella” Itkin-Konrath Rehearsal Studio will serve future generations as the dedicated rehearsal space for the Sondra and Denis Healy Theatre.